



Executive Office
of Housing and
Economic Development



495/METROWEST DEVELOPMENT COMPACT

DATE: July 18, 2011

TO: Chairs, Board of Selectmen, Planning Boards, and Conservation Commissions
Town Administrators and Town Planners

FROM: 495/MetroWest Development Compact Coordinating Committee (shown above)

RE: Update on the *495/MetroWest Development Compact*

Thank you for participating in the *495/MetroWest Development Compact*. Your community's input on infrastructure needs, preservation opportunities and key development locations across the region is critical to the project's success, and we greatly appreciate your contributions.

Your input, as well as the recommendations of the other thirty-six municipalities within the *495/MetroWest Development Compact's* study area, led to the identification of 226 Priority Development Areas and 383 Priority Preservation Areas and a wide range of infrastructure priorities. These initial findings were incorporated into a series of maps that were discussed at two regional forums in Westborough on June 15 and in Boxborough on June 21.

In addition, a regional analysis prepared by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Data Center provided extensive economic and demographic data on the study area, such as:

- **POPULATION:** 40,000 new residents since 2000, growing at 6%, twice the state rate
- **EMPLOYMENT:** 400,000 jobs, with over 50% along the Route 9 corridor
- **JOB:** Five communities (Framingham, Marlborough, Milford, Shrewsbury, Worcester) each host more than 10,000 jobs held by commuters
- **DEVELOPMENT:** From 1999 to 2005, 6,400 acres were developed while 2,000 acres were permanently protected

More information is available online at www.495partnership.org/compact, including the presentation from the forums; regional maps; and multi-municipal maps showing the development locations, preservation opportunities, and infrastructure needs identified by each community. As the study moves forward this summer, the local recommendations will be reviewed to identify areas of regional significance and in the fall we will hold additional public forums to present these findings. The study and final report are expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, and we look forward to continuing our work with you on the *495/MetroWest Development Compact*, since it will form the framework for public decision-making in land use regulation and infrastructure investment within the region over the next twenty years.

For Further Information, visit www.495partnership.org/compact, or contact any of the partners:

Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development:

Robert Mitchell
617-788-3658 / robert.mitchell@state.ma.us

495/MetroWest Partnership:

Paul Matthews
cell: 508-479-8234 / paul@495partnership.org

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission:

Megan DiPrete
508-459-3315 / mdiprete@cmrpc.org

Mass Audubon:

Stephanie Elson
781-259-2146 / selson@massaudubon.org

Metropolitan Area Planning Council:

Steven Winter
617-451-2770 / swinter@mapc.org

MetroWest Regional Collaborative:

Bruce Leish
508-881-2924 / bleish@mapc.org